

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.111 and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

By the above amendments, claims 1-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 15-28 have been added. New claims 15-24 are directed to antireflection films, and new claims 25 and 26 are directed to polarizing plates. New claims 27 and 28 are directed to an image display device and a liquid crystal display, respectively. Support for the new claims -28 can be found in the instant specification at least at pages 4-8, taken in connection with page 31, lines 2-4.

In the Official Action, claims 1-3, 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,383,559 (*Nakamura et al*). Claims 4, 8, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Nakamura et al*. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Nakamura et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,210,858 (*Yasuda et al*). Claims 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Nakamura et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,254,973 (*Yoshida et al*). Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Nakamura et al* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,633,352 (*Yamaguchi et al*).¹ Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Nakamura et al* in view of *Yamaguchi et al*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,400 (*Yang et al*). The above rejections are moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-14. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 15-28 are allowable over the above applied art for at least the following reasons.

¹ It is noted that while the Official Action at page 8 cites an incorrect patent number of *Yamaguchi et al*, the form PTO-892 correctly cites such patent number.

Independent claim 15 is directed to an antireflection film comprising: a transparent support; and as an outermost layer, a low refractive index layer containing a fluorine-containing polymer, wherein the low refractive index layer comprises at least one inorganic fine particle having an average particle size of 30 to 100% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer, and wherein the low refractive index layer further comprises at least one silica fine particle having a particle size of less than 25% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer.

Nakamura et al does not disclose or suggest each feature recited in claim 15. For example, *Nakamura et al* does not disclose or suggest a low refractive index layer that comprises at least one inorganic fine particle having an average particle size of 30 to 100% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer and at least one silica fine particle having a particle size of less than 25% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer, as recited in claim 15.

As noted in the Official Action at page 4, *Nakamura et al* discloses that "powder of inorganic particles . . . can be mechanically crushed to prepare a dispersion" (col. 8, lines 59-62). However, *Nakamura et al* provides no disclosure or suggestion that such mechanical crushing is suitable for obtaining at least one inorganic fine particle having an average particle size of 30 to 100% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer and at least one silica fine particle having a particle size of less than 25% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer. And certainly, absent an improper resort to Applicants' own disclosure, the mere disclosure of such mechanical crushing step would not have led one of ordinary skill in the art to employ such mechanical crushing to obtain the claimed at least one inorganic fine particle having an average particle size of 30 to 100% of the thickness of the

low refractive index layer and at least one silica fine particle having a particle size of less than 25% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer, as is presently claimed.

As discussed at pages 30 and 31 of the instant specification, it can be beneficial to employ such relatively smaller silica fine particle together with the (relatively larger) inorganic fine particle having an average particle size of 30 to 100% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer, in accordance with the claimed invention. For example, the relatively smaller silica fine particle can, in an exemplary embodiment, function as a holding agent of the relatively larger inorganic fine particle. *Nakamura et al* fails to provide any recognition or suggestion of such advantage of employing the relatively smaller and larger particles together in the same low refractive index layer. In view of the above, it is apparent that no motivation or suggestion would have existed to modify *Nakamura et al* to arrive at the claimed invention.

Yasuda et al, *Yoshida et al*, *Yamaguchi et al* and *Yang et al* have also been relied upon by the Patent Office for the reasons discussed at pages 6-10 of the Official Action. However, like *Nakamura et al*, the secondary applied documents fail to disclose or suggest a low refractive index layer that comprises at least one inorganic fine particle having an average particle size of 30 to 100% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer and at least one silica fine particle having a particle size of less than 25% of the thickness of the low refractive index layer, as recited in claim 15.

For at least the above reasons, it is apparent that the claims of the present application are neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious over the applied art. Accordingly, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

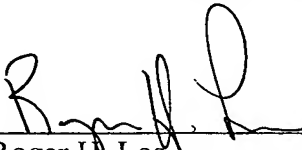
If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL AND ROONEY PC

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By:



Roger H. Lee
Registration No. 46317

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404
703.836.6620